

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
 Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
 Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A vascular repair device, comprising:

a tubular graft body having a longitudinal axis;

a structural framework having at least two stents connected to said graft body; and

a curved longitudinal support member connected to said graft body and having a centerline parallel to said longitudinal axis, said support member being substantially symmetrical with respect to said longitudinal axis centerline.

2 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member is of a material selected from the group consisting of nitinol, stainless steel, biopolymers, Cobalt Chrome, and titanium alloys.

3 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member has a flattened S-shape.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

4 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member has a partial helix shape.

5 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member is curved with substantially asymptotic ends.

6 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member is connected to said graft body independent of said structural framework.

7 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member is connected to one of said stents of said structural framework.

8 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 7, wherein said longitudinal support member has an end connected to said one stent.

9 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 7, wherein said longitudinal support member has two ends each connected to respective ones of said stents of said structural framework.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

10 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member is pre-formed in said curved shape.

11 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member has rounded ends.

12 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member has a looped end with a curved longitudinal extremity.

13 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member has two looped ends each with curved longitudinal extremities.

14 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support member is shorter than said structural framework.

15 (currently amended). A vascular repair device, comprising:

a tubular graft body having a longitudinal axis;

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

a structural framework having at least two stents connected to said tubular graft body; and

a curved longitudinal support member connected to said graft body independent of said structural framework and having a centerline parallel to said longitudinal axis, said support member being substantially symmetrical with respect to said longitudinal axis.

16 (original). A vascular repair device, comprising:

a tubular graft body;

a structural framework having at least two stents connected to said tubular graft body; and

a longitudinal support member having two ends, at least one of said ends having a curved longitudinal extremity.

17 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 16, wherein said support member is curved.

18 (original). A vascular repair device, comprising:

a tubular graft body having a proximal end and a distal end;

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

a structural framework having at least two stents each respectively connected to said tubular graft body adjacent said proximal end and said distal end and defining a separation distance therebetween; and

a longitudinal support member shorter than said separation distance and being connected to said graft body between said at least two stents to form a gimbal at at least one of said proximal and distal ends of said graft body.

19 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 18, wherein said support member is curved.

20 (original). A vascular repair device, comprising:

a tubular graft body having a proximal end and a distal end;

a structural framework having at least two pairs of stents each respectively connected to said graft body adjacent said proximal end and said distal end, said stents of each of said pairs of stents being separated from one another at said graft body to define a respective outer stent and a respective inner stent; and

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

a longitudinal support member connected to said graft body and  
extending between:

at least said inner stent of a first of said two pairs of  
stents; and

at least said outer stent of a second of said two pairs of  
stents.

21 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim  
20, wherein said support member is connected to said graft  
body between both of said inner stents of said two pairs of  
stents.

22 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim  
20, wherein said support member has ends each connected to  
said inner stent of each of said two pairs of stents.

23 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim  
20, wherein:

said support member has ends; and

at least one of said ends is connected to said inner stent of  
one of said two pairs of stents.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

24 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 20, wherein said support member is curved.

25 (original). A vascular repair device, comprising:

a tubular graft body having a proximal end and a distal end;

a structural framework having at least two pairs of stents each respectively connected to said graft body adjacent said proximal end and said distal end, said stents of each of said pairs of stents being separated from one another at said graft body to define a respective outer stent and a respective inner stent; and

a curved longitudinal support member having two ends and being connected to said graft body between both of said inner stents of said two pairs of stents.

26 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 25, wherein said support member is connected to said graft body without touching said inner stents.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

27 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 25, wherein said support member is connected to said graft body to touch at least one of said inner stents.

28 (original). A vascular repair device, comprising:

a tubular graft body having first and second ends;

a structural framework having at least three stents, two of said stents being connected to said tubular graft body adjacent said first end, said two stents being separated from one another on said graft body to define an outer stent and an inner stent, a third of said stents being connected to said tubular graft body adjacent said second end; and

a longitudinal support member having two ends and being connected to said graft body between said inner stent and said third stent without touching said inner stent and said third stent.

29 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 28, wherein said support member is curved.

30 (withdrawn). A vascular repair device, comprising:



Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

a tubular graft body;

a structural framework having at least two stents;

a first of said stents being connected to said tubular graft  
body along an entirety of said first stent;

a second of said stents having a periodically changing shape  
to define proximal apices having given radii of curvature and  
distal apices having radii of curvature smaller than said  
given radii of curvature; and

said second stent being connected to said tubular body at said  
distal apices.

31 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim  
30, wherein said second stent is connected to said tubular  
body only at said distal apices.

32 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim  
30, wherein said first stent has alternating proximal and  
distal apices with substantially equal radii of curvature.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

33 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 32, wherein said radii of curvature is between approximately 0.1 mm and approximately 3.0 mm.

34 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 32, wherein said radii of curvature is approximately 0.5 mm.

35 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 30, wherein:

said graft body has a proximal end;

said second stent is connected at said proximal end; and

said proximal apices extend away from said proximal end.

36 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 35, wherein:

said first stent has alternating proximal and distal apices with substantially equal radii of curvature; and

said distal apices of said second stent have radii of curvature substantially equal to said radii of curvature of said proximal and distal apices of said first stent.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

37 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 36, wherein said proximal apices of said second stent have radii of curvature approximately equal to 1.5 mm and said distal apices of said second stent have radii of curvature approximately equal to 0.5 mm.

38 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 30, wherein:

said first stent has a given amplitude; and

said second stent has an amplitude greater than said given amplitude.

39 (withdrawn). A vascular repair device, comprising:

a tubular graft body;

a structural framework having at least two stents;

a first of said stents:

having a periodically changing shape to define first proximal apices having first radii of curvature and first

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

distal apices having radii of curvature substantially  
equal to said first radii of curvature; and

being connected to said tubular graft body along an  
entirety of said first stent; and

a second of said stents:

having a periodically changing shape to define second  
proximal apices having second radii of curvature larger  
than said first radii of curvature and second distal  
apices having radii of curvature substantially equal to  
said first radii of curvature; and

being connected to said tubular body only at said second  
distal apices.

40 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim  
1, wherein said support member is substantially reverse-mirror  
symmetrical with respect to said centerline.

41 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim  
15, wherein said support member has a centerline and is  
substantially symmetrical with respect to said centerline.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

42 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 17, wherein said support member has a centerline and is substantially symmetrical with respect to said centerline.

43 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 19, wherein said support member has a centerline and is substantially symmetrical with respect to said centerline.

44 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 24, wherein said support member has a centerline and is substantially symmetrical with respect to said centerline.

45 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 25, wherein said support member has a centerline and is substantially symmetrical with respect to said centerline.

46 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 29, wherein said support member has a centerline and is substantially symmetrical with respect to said centerline.

47 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein said graft body has a diameter at least as large as a diameter of a vessel into which said graft body is to be placed.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

48 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least two stents each have apices;

said structural framework has a distal-most stent; and

said distal-most stent has at least one more apex than another of said at least two stents.

49 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 15, wherein said graft body has a diameter at least as large as a diameter of a vessel into which said graft body is to be placed.

50 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 15, wherein:

said at least two stents each have apices;

said structural framework has a distal-most stent; and

said distal-most stent has at least one more apex than another of said at least two stents.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

51 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 16, wherein said graft body has a diameter at least as large as a diameter of a vessel into which said graft body is to be placed.

52 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 16, wherein:

said at least two stents each have apices;

said structural framework has a distal-most stent; and

said distal-most stent has at least one more apex than another of said at least two stents.

53 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 18, wherein said graft body has a diameter at least as large as a diameter of a vessel into which said graft body is to be placed.

54 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 18, wherein:

said at least two stents each have apices;

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

said structural framework has a distal-most stent; and

said distal-most stent has at least one more apex than another  
of said at least two stents.

55 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim  
20, wherein said graft body has a diameter at least as large  
as a diameter of a vessel into which said graft body is to be  
placed.

56 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim  
20, wherein:

said stents each have apices;

one of said pairs of stents adjacent said distal end has a  
distal-most stent; and

said distal-most stent has at least one more apex than another  
of said stents.

57 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim  
25, wherein said graft body has a diameter at least as large  
as a diameter of a vessel into which said graft body is to be  
placed.



Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

58 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 25, wherein:

said stents each have apices;

one of said pairs of stents adjacent said distal end has a distal-most stent; and

said distal-most stent has at least one more apex than another of said stents.

59 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 28, wherein said graft body has a diameter at least as large as a diameter of a vessel into which said graft body is to be placed.

60 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 28, wherein:

said stents each have apices;

one of said stents is a distal-most stent; and

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

said distal-most stent has at least one more apex than another of said stents.

61 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 30, wherein said graft body has a diameter at least as large as a diameter of a vessel into which said graft body is to be placed.

62 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 30, wherein:

said first and second stents each have apices; and

said first stent has at least one more apex than said second stent.

63 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 39, wherein said graft body has a diameter at least as large as a diameter of a vessel into which said graft body is to be placed.

64 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 39, wherein said first stent has at least one more apex than said second stent.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

65 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 1, wherein:

said graft body has a longitudinal extent defining a longitudinal direction; and  
said stents have a substantially linear profile in said longitudinal direction.

66 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 65, wherein said stents have a linear longitudinal profile.

67 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 65, wherein said stents have a circular cross-sectional shape.

68 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 65, wherein said stents have a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

69 (withdrawn and currently amended). The vascular repair device according to claim 68, wherein said non-circular cross-sectional shape is selected from the group consisting of a ten-sided shape, ~~a twelve-sided shape, a fourteen-sided shape, a sixteen-sided shape, an eighteen-sided shape,~~ through a twenty-sided shape.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

70 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 15, wherein:

said graft body has a longitudinal extent defining a longitudinal direction; and  
said stents have a substantially linear profile in said longitudinal direction.

71 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 70, wherein said stents have a linear longitudinal profile.

72 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 70, wherein said stents have a circular cross-sectional shape.

73 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 70, wherein said stents have a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

74 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 73, wherein said non-circular cross-sectional shape is selected from the group consisting of a ten-sided shape, a twelve-sided shape, a fourteen-sided shape, a sixteen-sided shape, an eighteen-sided shape, a twenty-sided shape.

75 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 16, wherein:

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

said graft body has a longitudinal extent defining a longitudinal direction; and  
said stents have a substantially linear profile in said longitudinal direction.

76 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 75, wherein said stents have a linear longitudinal profile.

77 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 75, wherein said stents have a circular cross-sectional shape.

78 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 75, wherein said stents have a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

79 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 78, wherein said non-circular cross-sectional shape is selected from the group consisting of a ten-sided shape, a twelve-sided shape, a fourteen-sided shape, a sixteen-sided shape, an eighteen-sided shape, a twenty-sided shape.

80 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 18, wherein:  
said graft body has a longitudinal extent defining a longitudinal direction; and

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

said stents have a substantially linear profile in said longitudinal direction.

81 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 80, wherein said stents have a linear longitudinal profile.

82 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 80, wherein said stents have a circular cross-sectional shape.

83 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 80, wherein said stents have a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

84 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 83, wherein said non-circular cross-sectional shape is selected from the group consisting of a ten-sided shape, a twelve-sided shape, a fourteen-sided shape, a sixteen-sided shape, an eighteen-sided shape, a twenty-sided shape.

85 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 20, wherein:

said graft body has a longitudinal extent defining a longitudinal direction; and

said stents have a substantially linear profile in said longitudinal direction.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

86 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 85, wherein said stents have a linear longitudinal profile.

87 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 85, wherein said stents have a circular cross-sectional shape.

88 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 85, wherein said stents have a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

89 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 88, wherein said non-circular cross-sectional shape is selected from the group consisting of a ten-sided shape, a twelve-sided shape, a fourteen-sided shape, a sixteen-sided shape, an eighteen-sided shape, a twenty-sided shape.

90 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 25, wherein:

said graft body has a longitudinal extent defining a longitudinal direction; and

said stents have a substantially linear profile in said longitudinal direction.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

91 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 90, wherein said stents have a linear longitudinal profile.

92 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 90, wherein said stents have a circular cross-sectional shape.

93 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 90, wherein said stents have a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

94 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 93, wherein said non-circular cross-sectional shape is selected from the group consisting of a ten-sided shape, a twelve-sided shape, a fourteen-sided shape, a sixteen-sided shape, an eighteen-sided shape, a twenty-sided shape.

95 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 28, wherein:

said graft body has a longitudinal extent defining a longitudinal direction; and  
said stents have a substantially linear profile in said longitudinal direction.

96 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 95, wherein said stents have a linear longitudinal profile.



Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

97 (original). The vascular repair device according to claim 95, wherein said stents have a circular cross-sectional shape.

98 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 95, wherein said stents have a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

99 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 98, wherein said non-circular cross-sectional shape is selected from the group consisting of a ten-sided shape, a twelve-sided shape, a fourteen-sided shape, a sixteen-sided shape, an eighteen-sided shape, a twenty-sided shape.

100 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 30, wherein:  
said graft body has a longitudinal extent defining a longitudinal direction; and  
said stents have a substantially linear profile in said longitudinal direction.

101 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 100, wherein said stents have a linear longitudinal profile.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

102 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 100, wherein said stents have a circular cross-sectional shape.

103 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 100, wherein said stents have a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

104 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 103, wherein said non-circular cross-sectional shape is selected from the group consisting of a ten-sided shape, a twelve-sided shape, a fourteen-sided shape, a sixteen-sided shape, an eighteen-sided shape, a twenty-sided shape.

105 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 39, wherein:  
said graft body has a longitudinal extent defining a longitudinal direction; and  
said stents have a substantially linear profile in said longitudinal direction.

106 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 105, wherein said stents have a linear longitudinal profile.

Appl. No. 10/784,462  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 7, 2005

107 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 105, wherein said stents have a circular cross-sectional shape.

108 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 105, wherein said stents have a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

109 (withdrawn). The vascular repair device according to claim 108, wherein said non-circular cross-sectional shape is selected from the group consisting of a ten-sided shape, a twelve-sided shape, a fourteen-sided shape, a sixteen-sided shape, an eighteen-sided shape, a twenty-sided shape.